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IRMA RLS Session Plan

IRMA Rural Livelihood Systems Course Session Plan



Note: This session plan was submitted by Prof. Pramod Singh of Institute of Rural Management, Anand (Gujarat, INDIA) on March 7, 2013. It has been formatted and edited in Connexions by Joseph Satish V of Livelihoods MANTHON (Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, INDIA).

Course Title

Rural Livelihood Systems

Course Details

Course Credit: 0.5

Course Duration: 15 sessions offered in Term 1 of the Post Graduate Programme in Rural Management

Introduction

Livelihood is a set of activities using own and common endowments (human and material), to generate adequate resources (cash and non-cash), for meeting the requirements of self and the household, usually carried out repeatedly and as such becomes a way of life. Ideally, a livelihood should keep a household meaningfully occupied in a sustainable manner and with dignity.

Livelihood interventions are conscious efforts by a household, community or other agencies to promote and support livelihood opportunities for a large number of people (other than those directly or indirectly employed by them). Government of India has been one of the largest agencies involved in such livelihood promotion efforts. However, the cooperative sector, the corporate sector as also the NGO sector has also contributed to promoting livelihoods. The basic process of designing a livelihood intervention involves three fold activities: (i) observing and understanding the local economy (getting to know the people, assessing factor conditions, understanding local demand condition); (ii) selecting livelihood activities suitable for the poor in the area; and (iii) deciding on intervention.

Course Objectives

The course provides a holistic and interdisciplinary exposure to the understanding of concepts, processes, and relationships between available endowments, production systems, and livelihoods of rural people. The course has three modules with five sessions each. Its first module provides livelihood perspectives to the participants; discusses life support systems and sustainable livelihoods linkages, processes, tools and techniques for designing livelihood interventions; and measurement of sustainable livelihoods. The second module deals with the major agro-climatic region-wise associated production systems and land and water-based livelihood options. It also deals with the gaps and potential of agriculture, livestock, and allied agricultural activities in various agro-climatic zones. Non-farm and forest-based livelihoods are discussed separately. In the third module, the course deals with the critical understanding of livelihood promotion approaches that have been adopted by the major development organisations in India.

Pedagogy

Pedagogy for the course will include interactive session, case analysis, group and individual exercises, and presentations.

Session Plan

Session Number	Topics	Number of sessions
Module 1: Conceptual Frameworks, Approaches, Tools and Techniques (5.5 sessions)		
1-2	Livelihood perspectives: approaches and frameworks	2
3	Livelihoods and life support systems	1
4	Measuring sustainable livelihoods	1
5	Designing a livelihood intervention: process, tools and techniques	1.5
Module 2: Rural Production Systems and Dependence of Livelihoods (5 sessions)		
6-7-8	<p>Agro-climatic, and agro-ecological regionalization and associated production systems</p> <p>Development of agricultural, horticultural & fruits crops, and livestock in various agro-climatic zones</p>	3

Session Number	Topics	Number of sessions
9	Forest dependent livelihoods	1
10	Livelihood options in rural non-farm sectors	1
Module 3: Livelihood Interventions Adopted by the Prominent Development Organizations (4.5 sessions)		

Session Number	Topics	Number of sessions
11-15	<p>Critical understanding of the existing interventions on agriculture based livelihood interventions</p> <p>Critical understanding of the existing interventions on forest based livelihoods</p> <p>Critical understanding of the existing interventions on non-farm based livelihoods</p> <p>Critical understanding of the existing market-led livelihood interventions</p> <p>Critical understanding of livelihood interventions by state</p> <p>Terminal Examination</p>	4.5

XIMB RLS Course Outline

XIMB Rural Livelihood Systems Course Outline



Note: This session plan was submitted by Prof. C Shambu Prasad of Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (INDIA) on March 7, 2013. It has been formatted and edited in Connexions by Joseph Satish V of Livelihoods MANTHAN (Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, INDIA).

Course Details

Course Credit: 1.5

Course Duration: 10 sessions in Term 2 of the Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management Programme (Core course)

Course Description

It is increasingly realized that one of the major developmental challenges is promoting and supporting a large number of livelihoods that can enable poverty reduction. There is a demand for a new cadre of livelihood professionals in rural areas serving government, civil society and the private sectors. This course seeks to provide students with an opportunity to equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and practices to promote livelihood options for the rural poor.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the learners will be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding on the concept and approaches of livelihoods

- Understand the different livelihood strategies adopted by people and institutions working with the poor in farm and non-farm sectors
- Use different tools and techniques to assess livelihood options and design livelihoods interventions

Required Text Books and Reading Material

The key text that would be used for the course is Sankar Datta, Vijay Mahajan, Gitali Thakur. (Eds.) ***A resource book for livelihood promotion*** 3rd edn. 2009. Hyderabad: The Livelihood School.

Apart from this relevant resource material such as **State of India's Livelihoods (SOIL) reports 2008- 2011** and articles will be used.

A handbook of livelihood sources will be provided to students before the course, however students are encouraged to read widely from library resources and internet sources such as [**ELDIS Livelihoods Connect**](#)

Session Plan

Module	Session	Contents	Suggested readings
Basics of livelihoods	1-2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> 1. Context - Poverty </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 2. Meaning of livelihoods </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 1. Livelihoods of rural poor (SOIL 2008 report) </div>

		3. Definition of livelihoods	2. Robert Chambers and Gordon R. Conway: Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: practical concepts for the 21st Century
Livehood strategies	3	<p>1. Livelihood portfolio of rural poor</p> <p>2. Agriculture, Migration, Diversification</p> <p>3. Sectoral Approaches in Livelihoods</p>	<p>1. Ian Scoones: Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: A Framework for Analysis</p> <p>2. Types of livelihood interventions. A resource book for livelihood promotion</p>
Sustainable Livelihood	4-5		

Approaches		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable livelihood principles 2. Livelihood frameworks
Livelihood Promotion	6-8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livelihood promotion by different agencies 2. Major livelihood programmes in India 3. Challenges in livelihood promotion
Livelihood Mapping	9-10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tools and 1. Tools

techniques for
livelihood
mapping and
sub sector
analysis

developed by
various
livelihood
promoting
agencies
(guest
lectures by
TLS)

Evaluation

- Assignments and quiz: 25%
- Participation in Learning: 10%
- Mapping Livelihoods (Group Project): 30%
- End Term Exam: 35%

The Group project is to be carried out by students in the villages during their Rural Living and Learning Experience (RLLE) and is to be submitted on their return.